

## REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-13 is acknowledged with appreciation.

### Claims 14-22

The indication that claims 14-22 would be allowable if amended by amending the expression “fuel an air mixing” in claim 14, line 2, to ---fuel and air mixing---is acknowledged with appreciation. Claims 14 has been so amended and therefore each of claims 14-22 is believed to now be in a proper form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

### Claim 24

Original claim 24 was dependent on claim 23 and in the Office action of November 20, 2002 was deemed to be allowable if rewritten to overcome its §112 first paragraph rejection and to include all the limitations of its base claim 23.

Claim 24 has been so rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 23 and to obviate the §112 rejection. Accordingly, independent claim 24 is believed to be in the proper form for allowance and reconsideration and allowance thereof as rewritten is requested.

### Claim 23

Claim 23 has been further amended to obviate the rejection of prior claim 23 under §102(e) as being anticipated by Pattullo. As amended, claim 23 defines novel subject matter over Pattullo because it calls for:

- (1) the valve head is movable transversely relative to the shaft to center the valve head in the mixing passage,
- (2) the valve head is movable axially relative to the shaft to center the valve head in the mixing passage, and
- (3) the length of the slot in the shaft is greater than the width of the valve head in the mixing passage.

Undisputedly, the valve head 62 of Pattullo cannot move transversely relative to the shaft because detents 76 and 78 engage opposite sides of the shaft 56 with an interference fit which captures the choke plate 62 on the shaft so that it cannot move transversely of the shaft and consequently cannot move transversely of the mixing passage as shown in Fig. 43 (Col 9, Lines 46-49 and 57-65).

For the following reasons, applicant respectfully disagrees with and asks the Examiner to reconsider the interpretation of the Pattullo reference set forth in Paragraph 6 on Pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action of November 20, 2002.

- (1) Undisputedly the Pattullo written description does not state that the slot length exceeds the valve plate diameter or width;
- (2) The statement that Figs. 15-30 are drawn to engineering scale is wrong and rather Pattullo states (Col 9, Lines 4-6) that only Figs. 21 through 30 are to engineering scale (not Figs. 15-20) and undisputedly Figs. 21-30 do not illustrate the choke plate at all;
- (3) Figs 18 shows a valve plate diameter which is greater than the slot length 72 of the shaft 56 shown in Fig. 14 and undisputedly in Fig.

14 the slot length 72 is equal to the diameter of the valve plate 62 and the diameter of the mixing passage 70 of Fig. 14; and

(4) The Pattullo patent does not describe either Fig. 14 or Fig. 18 as being to engineering scale.

In view of these facts and that skilled persons knew that in conventional commercial carburetors the shaft slot length is equal to the diameter of the valve plate, the Pattullo reference as interpreted and understood by skilled persons would not anticipate claim 23 for at least these additional reasons as well as because it discloses the valve plate trapped on the shaft by the dimples 76 and 78, 80 so that the valve plate cannot shift laterally with respect to the shaft and the mixing passage.

For at least these same reasons, claim 23 is also believed to define patentable subject matter over the Pattullo reference, whether considered alone or in combination with the other references of record and hence is novel and patentable and should be allowed.

Conclusion

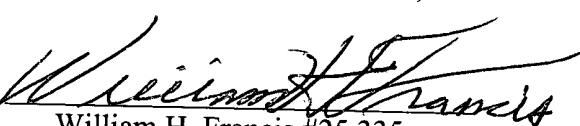
As amended, claims 14-22 and 24 are believed to comply with §112 and to now be allowable and such action is respectfully requested. As amended, claim 23 is believed to define novel and patentable subject matter and to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. The allowance of claims 1-13 is acknowledged with appreciation. Accordingly, all the claims of this application are believed to now be allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

If, after considering this Response, the Examiner believes any additional amendments are needed to place all of the claims in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is asked to initiate a telephone interview with applicant's attorney William Francis so that immediate consideration can be given to any further amendments suggested by the Examiner or otherwise needed to place all the claims in a condition for allowance. William Francis can normally be reached by telephone at (248) 689-3500 Monday through Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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